

Amendment/Reply

Applicant: Ian Colloff et al.

Serial No.: 09/977,604

Filed: October 21, 2001

Docket No.: 10011311-1/A310.257.101

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INPUT/OUTPUT PORT MIRRORING FOR NETWORKING
SYSTEM BRING-UP AND DEBUG

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8-17 without prejudice.

Please add claims 18-31.

Please amend claims 2 and 7 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A networking system, comprising:
 - a plurality of ports, each adapted to send and receive data;
 - a switch core having a first channel configured to receive a logical input flow data from each of the plurality of ~~input~~ ports, and having a second channel configured to receive a raw input flow data from each of the plurality of ~~input~~ ports, wherein each logical input flow data is carried by its corresponding raw input flow data; ~~and~~
 - a plurality of port mirrors selectable from the plurality of ports, wherein each of the plurality of port mirrors is configured to ~~produce~~ provide a duplicate copy of at least one of the logical input flow data and the raw input flow data available at a selected port; and
 - wherein each of the plurality of ports includes a switch adapted to receive an output of the switch core and configured to separate the logical input flow data from the raw input flow data.
3. (Previously Presented) The networking system of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of ports comprises:
 - an ingress channel adapted to send input flow data to the switch core;
 - an egress channel adapted to receive output flow data from the switch core; and
 - a multiplexer adapted to provide raw input flow to at least one of the switch core and the egress channel.
4. (Previously Presented) The networking system of claim 3, wherein the switch core comprises a cross bar switch.

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5. (Previously Presented) The networking system of claim 3, wherein the switch core comprises a semiconductor chip.

6. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 3, wherein the switch core comprises a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions.

7. (Currently Amended) The networking system of claim 3, comprising a scheduling circuit, wherein the scheduling circuit is configured to establish a set of connections for each of a plurality of output nodes that allows an input traffic unit allowing data to be passed from at least one of the first channel and the second channel over each of the established set of connections.

8.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) The networking system of claim 2, wherein the switch core is configured to provide multicast connections between an input node and a plurality of output nodes.

19. (New) The networking system of claim 3, comprising:
an input queue adapted to hold a plurality of logical traffic units of the logical input flow data prior to switching at the switch core.

20. (New) A networking system comprising:
means for receiving and sending data;
means for switching at least one of a raw input flow data and a logical input flow data; and
means for producing a duplicate copy of at least one of the logical input flow data and the raw input flow data available at the means for receiving and sending input flow data.

21. (New) The networking system of claim 20 comprising:
means for holding a plurality of logical traffic units of the logical input flow data prior to switching at the switch core.

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22. (New) The networking system of claim 21, wherein the means for receiving and sending data includes a switch configured to receive an output of the switch core and separate the logical input flow data from the raw input flow data.

23. (New) The networking system of claim 22, wherein the means for switching comprises a means for providing multicast connections between an input node and a plurality of output nodes.

24. (New) The networking system of claim 22, wherein the means for switching the logical input flow data and the raw input flow data comprises a cross bar switch.

25. (New) A method of operation of a networking system, the method comprising:
sending and receiving data at a plurality of ports;
receiving a logical input flow data at a first channel of a switch core and a raw input flow data at a second channel of the switch core from each of the plurality of ports;
switching data received at the first channel and the second channel using the switch core;
selecting a plurality of port mirrors from the plurality of ports; and
generating a duplicate copy of at least one of the logical input flow data and the raw input flow data; and providing the duplicate copy at the selected plurality of port mirrors.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 comprising:
debugging the networking system using the duplicate copy provided at the selected plurality of port mirrors.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein debugging the networking system includes using a test agent configured to communicate to the plurality of ports.

28. (New) The method of claim 25 comprising:

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separating the logical flow data from the raw input flow data using a switch provided at each of the plurality of ports.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 comprising:

queuing a plurality of logical traffic units of the logical input flow data prior to switching at the switch core.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein switching data received at the first channel and the second channel includes using a cross bar switch.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the cross bar switch is configured to provide multicast connections between an input node and a plurality of output nodes.